29th March 1963]

* 118 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 121 on 6th March 1961—

(a) whether the Government have since taken decision in regard to the taking over of the Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras; and

(b) if not, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Steamer Services

* 119 Q.—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made any recommendations to the Government of India for the transfer of steamer services from Dhanushkodi to Talaimannar from the Marine Department, Southern Railway to private sector; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Was any representation received from the public to pass it on to the private operators from the Navigation Department?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I would request the hon. Member to repeat the question.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Have the Government received any representation from the public to the effect that it may be transferred to private operators?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : No, Sir.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : The Government have incurred a loss of nearly Rs. 5 crores in operating the service. Some private operators have offered to the Government to run it if it is transferred to them. Will the Government recommend the transfer of the right to private parties?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not know from where the hon. Member got the information that the Government had incurred a loss of Rs. 5 crores. I do not think that such a huge loss is involved. There are difficulties in operating the particular service and in fact, the Railway Board had a mind to dispense with it. But it is this Government which has insisted that they must continue the service and so they are carrying on.